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## The Indian School of the Sisters of Loretto.

Bernalillo, New Mexico.

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**J**ust one year ago did the "City of Holy Faith" celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the coming of the Loretto Sisters to the "wild and woolly west." Gladly did the humble, zealous daughters of Rt. Rev. Charles Nerinckx respond to the earnest appeal of Rt. Rev. J. B. Lamy to assist in the arduous missions of New Mexico. There indeed the harvest was great, and it was meet that the first religious congregation founded in the United States should be the pioneer teacher of the Red Man in modern New Mexico.

The first trip across the Santa Fe Trail was not the last nor the most trying. That made in sixty-seven has been immortalized by the pen of the sweet singer, Eleanor Donnelly. The caravan was attacked by five thousand Indians, and one of the Sisters, the youngest of the group, died of fright and was buried on the plains.

The deeds of heroines are not often heralded by blast of trumpet, and so that initial quarto of holy souls worked silently, steadily on, sowing the seed of virtue and religion in the heart of the Red Man's child. The savage Indian of the plain, as well as the more docile Pueblo; gradually yielded to the gentle influence of the Loretines. Slowly but surely the mustard seed shot upward, until it loomed a majestic tree whose branches extend to all parts of the Territory. Dear to the heart of every Sister of Loretto are the souls of God's little ones; but thrice dear are the Indian children, despoiled as they are of the earthly heritage. Cruelly dark and drear would those little lives be, were they not cheered and enlightened by the torch of Christian charity; and yet, our hearts swell with indignation as we say it, this last, this greatest